



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

Case No. 2019-01088-FOIA-OS

July 19, 2019

Melanie Sloan
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This letter is the final response to your July 17, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Specifically, you requested the following records:

“Requesting records to identify any and all contracts between the following agencies and (a) the below-listed individuals who were nominated but not confirmed to serve in the listed agencies or (b) any legal entities operated by or on behalf of the listed individuals: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: John Bartrum, and Stephen Parente.”

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation assessed their records and advised that neither individual listed in your request entered into contracts with the offices to which they were nominated to serve. Therefore, there are no records responsive to your request.

While we believe an adequate search of the appropriate files was conducted for the records requested, you have the right to appeal this finding that no responsive records exist within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency’s decision.

Your appeal must be mailed within 90 days from the date of receipt of this letter, to:

Ms. Kim Hutchinson
Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Room 729H
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Please clearly mark both the envelope and your letter “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.”

You may also e-mail your appeal to: HHS.ACFO@hhs.gov.

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact the HHS FOIA Public Liaison for assistance at:

HHS FOIA/PA Public Liaison
FOI/Privacy Acts Division
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
Office of the Secretary (OS)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite 729H
Washington, DC 20201

Telephone: (202) 690-7453
Fax: (202) 690-8320
E-mail: HHS_FOIA_Public_Liaison@hhs.gov

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: 202-741-5770
Toll-Free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: 202-741-5769

There are no charges in this instance because the billable costs are less than our threshold of \$25.

Sincerely yours,



Brandon J. Gaylord
Supervisory Government Information Specialist
and HHS FOIA/PA Public Liaison